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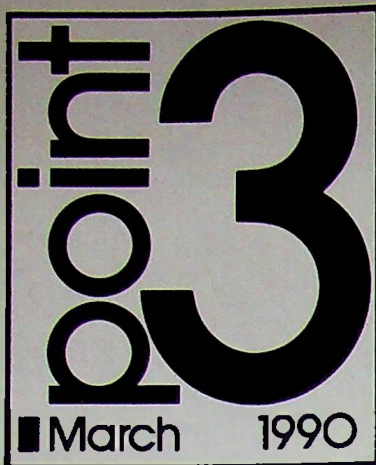
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Toc H and  
**THE INNER CITY  
REFUGEES**

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The magazine of  
 **TOC H**



## The magazine of **TOC H**

Toc H is a movement of people who seek to build friendships, and offer service, across the barriers that usually divide us from one another. The basic unit is the group - at best a good cross-section of the local neighbourhood - which meets together regularly, and seeks to serve the community around it. Toc H was founded in 1915 by the Rev P. B. 'Tubby' Clayton, and since then has been providing opportunities for people to test the Christian way by practical experiment.

All members pledge themselves to try:

1. To welcome all in friendship and lessen by habit of thought, word and deed the prejudices which separate people.
2. To give personal service.
3. To find their own convictions while listening with respect to the views of others.
4. To acknowledge the spiritual nature of man and to test the Christian way by trying it.

This magazine is a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world as well as a record of Toc H service. Its title derives from the third of these Four Points.

## Moving on

When I applied for this job I said that I expected to stay for two to three years. Two and a half years later, I claim consistency, if nothing else! This month I leave the editorial chair. It is time for me to move on to other things, and for *Point 3* and the Publicity Department to benefit from a fresh mind.

The magazine is put together well in advance of publication, to fit in with design and print schedules. I shall be preparing both the April and the May editions before I go and will have commissioned a number of articles due to appear later in the year. There is no danger then, of a sudden change of style and series started or promised will neither be abandoned nor interrupted. But I look forward to seeing what changes of policy and tone my successor (not yet, as I write, appointed) effects. It is right that personality and circumstance should modify a magazine - there are no absolutes of taste.

It has been, for me, an interesting two and a half years, and I have learnt a great deal. Many of the pleasures and the problems I had predicted; but there also were a number that I did not. I *had* planned to make a number of changes in *Point 3*; but not to become so controversial! I *had* anticipated that I would be involved in the production of new publicity material for Toc H; but not that this would prove to be part of a much wider reshaping of our language and our image - a shift in our way of defining ourselves both to each other and to those outside. And I certainly did not guess at the beginning that I would be helping to write a book about Toc H. In June this year *Out of a Hop Loft* will be published by Darton, Longman & Todd. It is a joint offering from Ken Prideaux-Brune and myself for the movement's 75th Anniversary - but it is not really *our* book at all. It is based on interviews with a large number of people of all ages, to all of whom Toc H has

been of great importance. It sketches the movement's history through their recollections and reflections.

From all the many and varied conversations we had when putting the book together, one theme emerged above all others - that Toc H is remarkable not for any particular piece of work but for the way it changes individuals. Time and again people stressed that what they had learnt in Toc H about themselves and about others had had a profound impact on their lives. They had carried this with them, even when they had ceased to have any active involvement in Toc H itself.

This is a feeling that I share. For me, the most important lessons of my time on the staff have been entirely personal and of lasting significance. 'Toc H is a journey of discovery', in the words of the Statement of Re-affirmation (see *Point 3*, January), 'which leads both outwards and inwards'.

Part of the journey for me, as for so many others, is moving on.

**Judith Rice**

■ *Judith Rice will be working for the Roman Catholic weekly The Tablet.*

The Editorial Office is returning to Wendover. All material should be sent to:  
**The Editor, Point 3, Toc H Headquarters,  
1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT.**

Ken Prideaux-Brune will be 'holding the fort' until a new Editor is in post.

Editor: Judith Rice  
Designer: Sybil A. Chick

### Cover

Two children use a derelict site as their playground.

Photo: Stefano Cagnoni

Letters, articles and news items are welcomed, and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 38 Newark Street, London, E1 2AA. Tel: 01 375 0547.

Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

*Point 3* is available from Toc H Despatch Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT. (Telephone: 0296 623911.)

Price: 20p per copy or £2 per year subscription. Any contribution towards the high cost of postage will be gratefully accepted.

# Doing Something!

The Ockenden Venture has been working with refugees from different parts of the world for nearly 40 years. *Margaret Dixon*, founder and chairman, describes its small beginnings and its varied activities.



*Arrivals from Hong Kong at Keffolds, Haslemere, in 1984.*

During the late '40s, at the end of the second great stultifying war of this century, three school teachers - Joyce Pearce, her cousin Ruth Hicks and myself - were all interested in the Education for Citizenship of the young grammar school person. We held conferences in our own homes when school premises were not available. Sometimes we even organised 'weekends' and the topics we discussed were many and various - 'Science and Religion', 'Art and the Common Man', 'Music-Making' and, once, 'The Problem of the Refugee'. At this point some of the sixth formers awoke to the fact that we might indeed *do* something, instead of endlessly talking.

It was Joyce who took up the challenge by beginning to study the problem of the DPs (Displaced Persons) in the 'camps' in Germany. She at length found an ally, Dame Rosa Ward, the head of the Guide International Service, which was doing fine relief work in these camps scattered all over West Germany. To cut a long story short, we accepted 10 teenagers for a fortnight, and ended up with 17 for a month (shades of how we usually proceeded!). The town of Woking helped to make this possible: our doorstep was always miraculously groaning under baskets of vegetables and fruit, freshly baked

loaves, homemade cakes, meat and poultry - like the Widow's Cruse. Whenever we wanted to take them out on trips, there was always a coach and some willing Rotarian or Inner Wheel or church helpers to accompany them and amuse them - and what is more, pay for the coach! The sixth formers who had in reality been the true begetters of the idea were always there to help cook the meals, or do all kinds of household chores or make friends with the group, or even try to teach them some English.

## Unplanned Growth

Joyce Pearce and I took the 17 back to their various camps - Schleswig Holstein, Hamburg, Oldenburg, Hildesheim, Hannover, Stuttgart and even Munich - and for the first time saw for ourselves the horrors of camp life. When we were asked by two of the parents whether we would consider having the youngsters back for a longer period, we came back to England to consider. Joyce began another long round of investigations, and set out on the next stage. She went to schools, to Rotary Clubs, to anyone who would take an interest until with the advent of five girls for one year, we were launched on our next phase. Joyce was

*Continued overleaf* 3

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previous page**



*The original 5 on the occasion of their tenth anniversary.*

everywhere at once, Ruth and I tied for most of our time to our schools, but backing up at weekends and in evenings. And of course in order to be allowed to collect money we had to make ourselves into a charity, with the help of some well-known people to give us credibility. We called ourselves 'Ockenden Venture' after the house Ockenden in which we lived.

Our growth owed more to chance than planning. Our numbers grew and we took on other houses near Ockenden when we could. Joyce at one point left us all in Woking to open a mansion in the Midlands to house Hungarian refugees from the 1956 uprising. After a year, when the Hungarians had moved on, she kept the loan of the mansion to house some of our surplus children. When there was still not enough room we took on a former Barnardo's home on the hills of Haslemere. We were given some houses and borrowed others. By 1959, we had helped in a small way to launch World Refugee Year and had a share of its £10 million profit, so eventually we could actually buy houses. In 1969 a blow fell - our beloved Ockenden house had to be sold for redevelopment, and although we were pleased with the money we are, even today, still feeling its loss.

By the middle of 1960, the children from the DP camps were growing up, the camps themselves were closing as the German government began to build blocks of flats to house these people, and we could see an end in sight to our work there. But in the meantime another great exodus had begun: of Tibetans, streaming out of their country on to the plains of North India. Joyce was asked for help and soon set off to have a look for herself. She set up a school in Northern India, in Happy Valley, to provide education for all the wandering children. In those days we were allowed by the Indian government to send our Ockenden workers to teach and to help in the school which we called The House of Faith. Later, when the Indian government no longer found itself able to allow entry to British workers, the school was staffed by Tibetans. We do however still help to support it generally. We have also from time to time had Tibetan teenage students in this country to train for college and university entrance. This was an arrangement between Joyce and His Holiness the Dalai Lama, whereby after they had finished their training, they were to go back to India to help their own people.

During this time too, we received many Chilean refugees who came out after the fall of Allende. We also had a large group of Biharis and a smaller one of Indians from Malawi. And so it went on, until Joyce went out in 1970 to see for herself the troubles in

Vietnam, to take out Ockenden workers to gather the children into shelter, and to set up a home for mentally and physically handicapped children. Only one group of five of these children was ever brought from Vietnam to England and that was by special dispensation of the Vietnamese government and on condition that we in Ockenden did not teach them English and returned them to Vietnam after one year; we for our part promised to get the best possible treatment for their physical handicap (polio). All this we did - they returned to Vietnam, not cured, but wonderfully different and more mobile than when they came. It was ironic that they had not long been back when Saigon fell, children were airlifted by the *Daily Mail* to England and there we saw our 'five' together with countless others; indeed we have them near to this very day. The Camberley house (Kilmore) received many of the handicapped people

## Taking off the Chill

**Judith Rice went to meet a remarkable man who is working with one particular group of refugees in the East End.**

The Somali Counselling Project until recently occupied a couple of small rooms in Toynbee Hall in the East End of London; it has just moved to more spacious premises on the South Bank. Dr Omar Dihoud and his assistant Amina Hussein attempt to offer some support to a few of the victims of a violent civil war of which few people in this country are even aware.

Dr Dihoud was a doctor in the Somalian army and was appalled by the atrocities he witnessed. In 1979, he took advantage of a trip to Britain for medical treatment to apply for political asylum - the first Somali to do so.

Many more followed in 1984 and there are now nearly 20,000 living in this country. Inevitably they are those who had a little more money or influence - otherwise they would never have been able to escape. Since 1988 the fighting in their homeland has escalated - there are accounts of streets strewn with thousands of dead bodies. Yet since foreign journalists are refused entry, the coverage in the western press is minimal.



Joyce Pearce,  
around the 1960s.



The House of Faith, Happy Valley, Mussoorie.

whom we had been looking after in Saigon and there is still a lovely group of these young people happily living there.

In the exodus of families which followed the fall of Saigon the British government offered to take in 10,000. They were to be put into the care of three refugee agencies, one of which was Ockenden. They were also to be paid for, and the folk who looked after them were also to be paid. At this point Ockenden, from being free to collect money where and how it could, became dependent on government funding. In one way this was a relief in that we were not continually worried about money, but it was not an unmixed blessing.

There have been other changes over the years. Saddest of all was the death of Ockenden's true founder, Joyce

Pearce, who went from us in body, though not in spirit, more than four years ago. We have retained close but changed links with our first people, the Poles, because we now send regular help (especially medical) to Poland itself.

### Horrible Fate

The sufferings and needs of refugees have not diminished in the 40 years since the Ockenden Venture began. As I write, the Vietnamese still in Hong Kong who are awaiting permission to be resettled in Britain or Australia or USA or France (or indeed in *any* other country) are living in danger of forced repatriation. That is a horrible fate which we hope will not come to pass. Better a hard life in Britain than a life of fear in Vietnam!

There are bereavements on a colossal scale. No Somali family has been without loss. The emotional effects have been devastating and the mental illness which afflicts so many of them is, according to Dr Anthony Pelosi, another psychiatrist closely associated with the Project, 'a normal response to profound social stress'. The trauma of loss, suffering and fear is compounded on arrival in Britain by homelessness and isolation. Many families end up living in Bed and Breakfasts in areas such as Bayswater where 'the children think they are in prison', in Dr Dihoud's words, 'because there is nowhere to play'. It's difficult to get access to full-time education and most of the refugees have no grasp of English. They are disorientated and confused and many of them suffer from acute depression.

Dr Dihoud trained in psychiatry in London and in December 1986 set up the Counselling Project to try to help some of these people. He is the only Somalian psychiatrist practising in the West. Each day he sees about half a dozen individuals, a couple of whom are probably coming for the first time. Their improvement is often rapid. He has close links with the Maudesley Hospital and Institute of Psychiatry so that, when necessary, he can send clients there for more detailed examination. It is important to eliminate physical illness as a possible cause of symptoms - one man, for example, turned out to be suffering from spinal TB. Those that remain can then be helped in whatever ways they need. Dr Dihoud and his assistant offer help with school forms, DHSS applications and other administrative headaches and liaise with social services departments, as well as offering a counselling service for those whose problems are primarily emotional rather than practical.

Dr Dihoud wants to expand the service he can offer. Various Trusts support the Project but until more money is available to pay for another member of staff and even better accommodation the work it can do is strictly limited. This is doubly unfortunate as word spreads and more and more people seek help. Dr Dihoud has slowly gained the confidence not only of Somalis in London but of culturally related peoples such as Eritreans and Iturbians. His work is its own advertisement: 'many of our people hide their symptoms if they are depressed but not completely mentally ill'. When they hear of the existence of Dr Dihoud, they shed some of their privacy and reluctance, happy to visit him simply because he is one of them - he speaks their language and understands their background. Finding him sympathetic and actively helpful, they then recommend him to others.

Omar Dihoud has become widely respected in his own community. More than that, he provides a vital link between the Somalis and the welfare services of this country which, although it has received them and rescued them from death, does nothing then to help them build a new life. Somalian refugees have had no glamour attached to them - after the relief at having escaped, they have found only a cold welcome. Dr Dihoud and those he works with are doing just a little to take off the chill.

■ Dr Dihoud has close connections with the Medical Foundation for the Care of the Victims of Torture (see pp. 6-7) and with international organisations such as the Red Cross, the United Nations Commission for Refugees and the Refugee Supporting Centre.

# Survivors of Torture

**'Although torture is banned under international law, it is practised in more than one third of the countries of the world' - Alison J Smith writes about the work of the Medical Foundation for the Care of the Victims of Torture.**

It is 10 o'clock on Friday morning and the waiting room at The Medical Foundation in North London is beginning to fill up. In one corner, a small group of Turkish men are chatting over mugs of strong black coffee, whilst nearby two others have settled down to an early game of chess. On the sofa opposite, a young Somali woman holding a sleeping child keeps a watchful eye on her toddler who is playing contentedly on the carpet with a box of toys. Next door, in the kitchen, her husband is making a pot of tea.

They are just some of the growing number of survivors of torture that the Foundation has treated since its inception in 1985.

Staffed by a small core of paid workers, including administrative staff, doctors and case workers, the Foundation relies heavily on a much larger group of voluntary health professionals, without whose commitment it would be unable to continue its work. They come from all areas of the health service and include GPs, psychotherapists and physiotherapists. Together they try to meet the different needs of each individual.

*'it is only by accepting their terrible experiences, in sharing the guilt of man's capacity for cruelty, in facing the truth about torture, that we can begin to help.'*

**- Helen Bamber, Director**

Almost three quarters of the Foundation's clients are in the midst of applying for political asylum. Dr Tom Landau, a volunteer, believes that one of the primary roles of the Foundation is to provide medical reports for the clients' solicitors. If examination reveals scarring and residual injuries, he or one of the other doctors at the Foundation can verify that they are consistent with the history of torture described. Decisions made by the Home Office about a refugee's future often depend upon the receipt of these vital medical reports.

Many clients require treatment over a long period. The torture they have suffered usually affects them both mentally and physically and, as they are often without the support of family and friends, they need time to adjust to life in a strange, new country.

The Medical Foundation does not set out to 'cure' people who have been tortured and Helen Bamber, the Director, feels that 'It is only by accepting their terrible experiences, in sharing the guilt of man's capacity for cruelty, in facing the truth about torture, that we can begin to help.'

Help is available on a practical level, not just in providing medical reports but in assisting with housing or social security problems and, in the long term, with rehabilitation such as medical treatment and psychotherapy. Physiotherapy is very beneficial too, especially if a victim has suffered *falaka* - prolonged beating on the soles of the feet, or has sustained injuries to the neck or back. Breathing problems are a common complaint, as some people hyperventilated during the torture to make themselves lose consciousness and continue to do so in times of stress. Physiotherapy can help them to control their anxiety and to breathe normally again.

*'if you suffer for years afterwards then the torture has succeeded, and you cannot let it succeed'.*

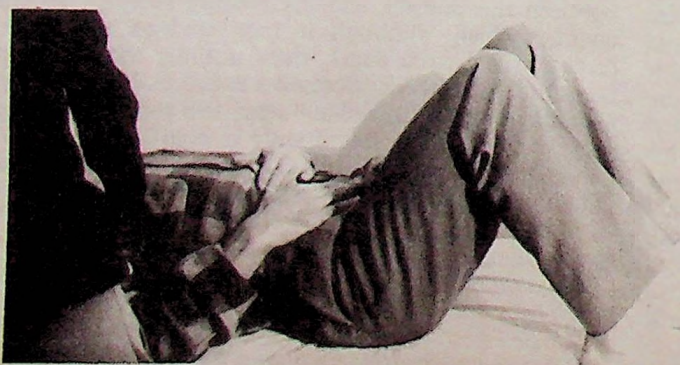
**- Perico Rodriguez, survivor and employee**

Although torture is banned under international law, it is practised in more than one third of the countries of the world. Amnesty International documentation has shown that it is not restricted to a particular type of regime.

Perico Rodriguez, an employee of The Medical Foundation and himself a survivor, believes torture is an attitude that is an extension of politics. 'It is used to prevent political opposition, to discover the truth and to control terrorism'. Indeed, where torture is widespread, it is usually an integral part of a government's security strategy and attempts are made to justify its practice as necessary to prevent terrorism.

Clients of The Medical Foundation come from places as far apart as Afghanistan and Zimbabwe and from popular holiday destinations such as Turkey and Morocco. They are men, women and children from all social classes, trades and professions. Some are the relatives and friends of wanted people, others may come from persecuted religious or ethnic minorities. But where torture is practised, everyone is at risk.

For the victim, torture means fear, pain and isolation. It



*Breathing exercises to help with hyperventilation*

means abduction beyond the reach of family, friends and legal assistance. It may mean the agony of children who have witnessed their parents being tortured, or the horror of watching others suffer and of being powerless to prevent it. For those who are left behind, it is the pain of not knowing the whereabouts of loved ones who have 'disappeared' - a pain which is unbearable.

The effects of torture can last a lifetime but, says Perico Rodriguez, 'if you suffer for years afterwards then the torture has succeeded, and you cannot let it succeed'.

Survivors of torture often feel isolated even in the midst of a loving family life. This isolation can be increased by poor living conditions, poverty and the communication problems encountered when learning to speak a new language. The Medical Foundation provides a non-threatening environment where clients can feel safe and where they can share their experiences with other survivors. Past and present clients regularly drop in to let the staff know how they are getting on and to participate in various activities.

Rosemary Levy, a volunteer art therapist at the Foundation, describes her weekly art therapy group as a 'time to reflect'. She emphasises that although members often work alone on a project it is very different to loneliness and the secure atmosphere of the group can help to ease feelings of isolation. Members are encouraged to use the art materials to express themselves and to develop their creativity.

'Through the manipulation of different media, people can get in touch with deep seated feelings which affect their lives and which they may not be able to verbalise,' she says, looking at the pottery, paintings and models which decorate the walls and shelves of a previously gloomy room. 'The actual creative process is good for self image. When people work together on a group picture they begin to explore their relationships to each other. It is a process which builds confidence and trust.'

In seeking to build trust and good communications, the Medical Foundation shares the knowledge that torture exists and tries to work together with its clients to end



it. For Perico Rodriguez this is its most important and positive role: 'The Medical Foundation is an institution which by its very existence acknowledges the awful tragedy of torture, which must stop. It is not enough to be sorry or to be pitiful, you have to do something about it.'

■ *Alison Smith is an Administrative Assistant at the Medical Foundation with special responsibility for Turkish Kurds.*

# A BARGAIN!

by Jean Whiteman

*Point 3* has cost 20p a month for four years. That's less than the average daily newspaper - and subscribers not only get a reduction on a year's issues; they are also not required to pay for the cost of postage. We are very grateful to all those who make a voluntary contribution over and above the £2 per annum we ask. Even so, the money recovered from sales of the movement's magazine makes only a relatively small contribution to the actual cost of producing it. To cover basic costs, *Point 3* would need to sell at 42 1/2 pence a copy; if the cost of staff time were included, the price would need to be 89p. This is taking no account of the occasional extra expenditure required - to pay, for example, for photographs.

It is right that the magazine should be subsidised so that its quality can be kept high. It is through *Point 3* that members communicate with each other and with those outside the movement. So it's important that as many people as possible have the opportunity to subscribe.

The CEC has therefore decided to increase the price of *Point 3* by just 10p, to 30p a copy, from April 1 1990. Subscribers will not be given a reduction, so that a year of *Point 3* will cost £3.60. Contributions towards the cost of postage will still be voluntary but are warmly encouraged. It costs £1.80 to send you a year's supply, so any help you can offer in covering that would be very much appreciated.

Go and look at your newsstands! We are sure you will agree that, at 30p an issue, *Point 3* is still a real bargain!

■ *Jean Whiteman is the Vice Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of Toc H and Chairman of the Publicity Committee.*



*Massage soothes the tenderness which follows 'falaka' - prolonged beatings on the soles of the feet. Many sufferers have great difficulty in walking.*

Barclay Baron, former Editor of the *Toc H Journal*, wrote that 'To conquer hate would be to end the strife of all the ages, but for men to know one another is not impossible, and it is half the battle'. Toc H is about enabling people to meet who otherwise would not and, having met, to know one another....

In a special series of Anniversary articles, *Point 3* is looking at how the movement has carried out that task during its 75 year history and at how it should continue to do so as we enter a new decade.

This month, *David Mayhew* looks at Toc H's role in the inner cities.

## Flowers in the Desert

There is no desert in Britain, no wilderness fraught with danger and inhabited by snakes. In ancient times holy men and lunatics went out into the desert to overcome evil, both within and without themselves, and find God. Today they go to the 'inner city'.

*'inner cities are no longer left to charity... they are big business, and small business, and everyone's business'*

The 'inner city' is a catch-all phrase to describe areas with particular concentrations of problems that can be found throughout the country. The 'inner city' is where we are at our weakest, where all the intractable issues that touch us all in some degree are brought into focus. The origin of the term is as an American euphemism for 'black neighbourhood'.<sup>(1)</sup> For us also it includes issues of race relations as well as of crime, housing, health care, family breakdown, poverty and unemployment - the polarisation and disintegration, in other words, that seem to be a continuing trend, little affected by countless studies and initiatives. It is a place for hopelessness. It is where we are powerless. It is our collective 'shadow', to use Jung's term for the place where we push all those aspects of our personality that we would rather not have to deal with. Yet as with the 'shadow' so with the 'inner city': if we face the issues that are so easily repressed our souls and bodies can find hope and healing. As Jesus said to St Paul, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness' (2 *Corinthians* 12:9). We must face the issues realistically, conscious of our weakness, our past failures, the possibility of continuing failure, if not



*Children play in the bleak surroundings of an inner city housing*

crucifixion, and we must look to the Crucified God for help to persevere until resurrection - this is the pattern for Toc H, and for all who are testing the Way of Christ.

Inner cities are not unknown to Toc H. Before the movement was born, its founder padre, Rev. 'Tubby' Clayton, 'fell beneath (the)...spell' of Dr John Stansfeld at the Oxford and Bermondsey Club and experienced the reality of poverty and deprivation in South London's poorest borough. The Doctor 'devoted every hour of his leisure to running a boys' club and to doctoring, for no fees, patients too poor to afford any'.<sup>(2)</sup> It was in Bermondsey, and Portsea, Portsmouth, that Tubby '...learned about men and their needs'.<sup>(3)</sup> Small wonder, then, that in the post-war application of the model of Talbot House, Poperinge (see *Point 3*, January) the influence of the Stansfeld tradition was so marked. Slums and trenches were the ground in which Toc H was planted and grew. Through a network of marks (Toc H hostels) and branches, boys' clubs and all kinds of social welfare sprang up around the country. Cities were the front line: Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham, and of course London, all saw marks established. These were supported by men and women who were prepared to face the difficulties, acknowledge their own inadequacy and do what they could to tackle needs together. People lived in the inner city, they did not just travel in to work and to 'do good' - that was part of the role of a mark. Their influence is still felt: in my own city of Newcastle upon Tyne the Grainger Park Boys' Club, founded by Toc H members, continues to thrive.

What now? Inner cities are no longer left to charity and the 'settlement' approach represented by Dr Stansfeld's work. Inner cities are big business, and small business,

(1) Kenneth Lecch - *Struggle in Babylon* (Sheldon Press, 1988)

(2) Melville Harcourt - *Tubby Clayton* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1953)

(3) John Durham - *A Dream Comes True* (Toc H)

# 1915 to know Toc H 1990 one 7.5 YEARS another

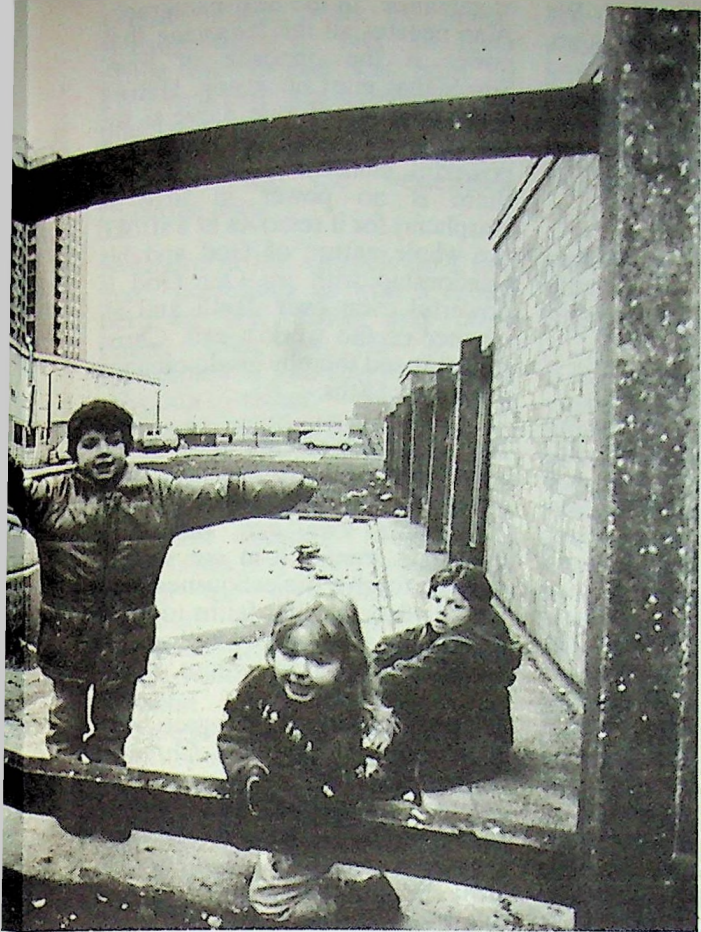


Photo: Stephano Cognigni

reconciliation between man and woman, man and God. But the light can shine brightest where the darkness is deepest. The movement is thankful for Peter East in Tower Hamlets and his work with the Bangladeshi community to tackle racism and prejudice in its many guises, and to build confidence, understanding and friendship. Friendship circles originated in Cleveland. At Ucaudit, in Newcastle, we have seen a tremendous variety of men and women experiencing Toc H and gaining motivation for life and work (see *Point 3*, November 1989).

*'If we wish to remain  
a national movement, we must place ourselves  
clearly in the "inner city"'*

What then of our future? We should not be afraid of our inadequacy; awareness of it, and of our significant experience, should encourage us to see inner cities as the major context for renewal of our movement, just as slums and trenches lay behind its birth and early years. We must not leave the cities for the towns and villages: '95% of British people depend on urban areas for their livelihood'.(1) If we wish to remain a national movement, we must place ourselves clearly in the 'inner city'. We cannot do this without moving our H.Q. from Wendover. Projects alone should not be our main focus: they are worthless in inner cities if not supported by established local groups who live out the Way we re-affirmed at last year's Council. We should commit our resources to funding on-going work from centres such as Webb House, Newark St. and Ucaudit. Inner cities cry out for faithfulness. We should make more evident our commitment to work alongside those from the churches who are breaking down barriers in inner city communities. The issues that we wish to address - of meeting, reconciliation, and friendship, are in most evident demand in our inner cities, and it is here that the inter-faith and inter-denominational issues that our National Chaplain has drawn attention to (*Point 3*, January) find their clearest focus.

Toc H is called to see flowers blooming in the desert. But we will not if we are not willing to change and be changed. Ucaudit may close at the end of this month. The Church Urban Fund has contributed £25,000 for 1990/91, some trusts have contributed more, but others ask - Why is Toc H not willing to support this work further? We must choose: clinging to the *status quo*, and death, or venturing into the desert for life. Let us choose life, for then

*The desert and the parched land will be glad;  
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom.  
Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice  
greatly and shout for joy. (Isaiah 35: 1, 2a)*

■ David Mayhew is a Toc H Development Officer based in Newcastle upon Tyne.

and everyone's business. Mrs Thatcher's pledge to deal with the inner cities after her re-election in 1987 has still to be honoured in full, but it has spawned much activity. Research and initiatives have multiplied. The emphasis has been on 'citizenship', enterprise, and collaboration. In Tyne and Wear we have an Urban Development Corporation, Urban Programme, National Garden Festival, Newcastle Initiative, and Newcastle Common Purpose, to name but a few of the major 'inter-agency' schemes tackling the problems. The Church Urban Fund, set up in response to *Faith in the City* (1985), is represented locally by the CROP (Church Reaching Out to People) fund, and is supporting many small scale initiatives. What the activity hides is the fact that money has been taken out of the inner city through cuts in the rate support grant greater than the funding of new bodies. Control has also become less democratic, and further removed from those who live in the inner city: the message of responsibility and initiative is all too often undermined by the method of promoting it.

*'Toc H is at home in Wendover,  
not Wolverhampton;  
in Newbury, not Newcastle'*

Faced with these challenges Toc H has been tempted to run away. We find our own inadequacy all too quickly, our old approaches appear irrelevant and dated; our staff do not have the skills and experience to see their way through the jungle; our members are too old and settled, or too young and mobile, to journey into the wilderness for long. We have all but deserted the cities. Toc H is at home in Wendover, not Wolverhampton; in Newbury, not Newcastle. Perhaps that is as it should be. Wherever people live there is need for light in darkness, for meeting, for

# your letters

We reserve the right to edit letters.  
Only letters with full name and address  
will be considered for publication.

See P Editorial Office  
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## CONTRADICTION?

David Weinstock's dilemma (*Point 3*, January) is not new. In 1926 Peter Monie, first Honorary Administrator of Toc H, wrote a series of articles for *The Journal*, which were then published in book form in 1927 under the title *Toc H under Way*. One of the articles is headed 'Is Toc H facing both ways?' Here are three quotations: 'Toc H, growing out of Talbot House, rests on a double tradition, that of the open door of Everyman's Club, and that of real devotion to the things which Everyman in the main rejects'.

'Can Toc H at the same time be Everyman's Club and also, quite definitely, a Christian family?'

'Toc H, if it abandoned either of them, would not be itself... There is no question of their being incompatible'.

The book is, alas, seemingly out of print as it is not on the literature list, and the article is too long for further quotations. I will gladly lend my well-worn copy to David, if he hasn't read it and would like to.

Alice Welford  
Lympstone

I felt that I must rise to the challenge posed by David Weinstock's letter (*Point 3*, January). In attempting to 'square the circle' he has allowed himself to be led up a blind alley. There is not contradiction, in my opinion, and the January editorial written by Alastair Muir answers his dilemma. Jesus was all things to all men and credal tests were not required on the shores of Lake Galilee. James, John and the others were simply asked to 'follow me' - they were however free to refuse if they so desired.

The fact that Toc H is based on Christian insights does not devalue it in any way and we merely ask

people to join us if they wish to. We are not living in the Middle Ages, when so called Christianity was based on the law of the rack and the thumb-screw. Yes, Toc H is Everyman's Club and principles one and two of the Statement of Reaffirmation are indivisible.

J R Morgan  
Ruislip

## EXCLUSIVITY

I strongly support the sentiments expressed in Alastair Muir's leading feature in your January issue; and his mention of 'a specific exclusive belief' as, I inferred, a reference to the Christian faith underlines a further misgiving of my own.

The exclusivity of Christianity appears to rest on the claim alleged to have been made by Christ that 'no man comes to God except through me'. Unless the Christian church, amongst many necessary and overdue reforms, abandons this ludicrous and contemptible proposition, it will continue to be of little real value or significance to society at large.

Peter Goozee  
Middleton Stoney

## CHRISTIAN MISSION

For the sake of clarity I must take issue with the articles by Revds. Colin Rudd and Alan Johnson in the December issue of *Point 3*.

For years, Toc H has been confused about its missionary role. This indecision has obstructed most of our policy making and will continue to do so until we get our Christian basis right. Am I alone in challenging what seems to me to be an accelerating rate of denial of our Christian basis? To consider ourselves a 'Christianising movement' is a fudge! For how can we hope to turn people towards Christ unless we are ourselves convinced of the truth of the Christian claims? Who would want to buy a motor car from a sales person who refused to guarantee what he was trying to sell?

Our baptismal rite asks 'Do you turn to Christ?', requiring not a vague belief that one or another route will get us to God, but that Christ is his only begotten son. The claims of Jesus himself in the New Testament point to nothing less than what Alan correctly calls his

'dominance'. In the next paragraph, Alan negates all this by saying that power is the opposite of love. Surely that must be wrong. Hatred is the opposite of love. Love as we know it in Christ is the most powerful emotion of all. To say there is no power in love is blasphemy for it removes at a stroke the whole nature of God and his relationship with us. Our God is powerful even over death and all manner of the world's evil. Christ proves it and thereby his dominance over other faiths.

It is the power of God, seen in the revelation of himself in Christ, that is the motivating force of Toc H. This same love can and does overcome great evil in our society and can forgive the callousness and hatred of some other faiths towards Christians. I wonder whether the Archbishop of Iran, whose family was butchered by Islamic fundamentalists, could agree with Alan's thought that 'the Christian Church is beginning to learn a deep respect for the faith of others taught in large measure by their respect of ours'? Are there, do you think, likely to be nods of assent to this claim in the homes of Terry Waite and other hostages cruelly locked away for no apparent reason except savage revenge? By the power of love we may be able to forgive but that doesn't mean acceptance.

If our task in Toc H is not vigorously to seek their conversion to the gospel of love, does this not mean that we no longer think they are in terror (see Colin's reference to the litany and Good Friday Collect)? Are we then to cease our prayers for the conversion of Unitarians, Jehovah's Witnesses, Moonies, Christian Scientists and a host of other minor heretical sects, and admit them all on the basis that they are seekers after Christ as we are? I think not, and if other Toc H members agree with me, then in the name of Christ speak up before the light of Toc H is finally extinguished by fallacy and error.

Only at the very end of Alan's article do I find a mere trace of the real Christian mission, and even then it is confused, for he writes: 'our task as members is not to be a church for them, nor to lead people to a church, but simply to be witnesses to the truth of the Christmas message in the ordinariness of our everyday lives'. How does he suggest we witness to Christ as the only son of God, without leading people to the

Church which bears his name? Because when he says 'for Jesus Christ our saviour was born on Christmas Day', presumably his own understanding is that Christ is saviour for the whole of humanity, not just for the westernised Christian part.

Nowhere in the Gospels do I find Jesus presenting us with a choice between his church and other faiths. John 14 1-3 is best interpreted as referring to universal salvation rather than to a compartmentalised heaven!

We shall not promote the best interests of Toc H by fudging this important question. Members of other faiths may join a branch but I cannot see how they can be 'initiated' without admitting the dominance of the Christian faith - Alan's words not mine. It is not a question of two tiers of membership, but of belief. The same simple challenge currently prevents a Unitarian minister from becoming a Toc H padre, so there is no contradiction in what I am saying, nor is it a precedent that changes the nature of Toc H.

Let us get it right and we shall see the power of the Holy Spirit coursing through this movement again as in past years; but continue to get it wrong and we shall end up with what Tubby described in 1924: 'The whole vast sea of human endeavour is strewn with once gallant ships, bemused, becalmed and broken down, nor is there any ignominy so pathetic as that of a society which sets out to convert the world and finishes by failing to convert its own members'.

Revd Colin Gibbs  
Wrexham

## FLASHING LIGHTS

A little over eight years ago, members of Carshalton Toc H and volunteers began the task of fitting up emergency flashing lights in this area, for disabled people who felt they could benefit from using them. The scheme proved useful and helpful. We received wonderful practical help from Loughton members and from a wide spread of individuals and groups. Since then the London borough of Sutton has pioneered a sophisticated alarm system known as the 'Sutton Button' which has really superseded our old system. Some surplus funds were handed over this year to another local organisation which

helps elderly and handicapped people. If there is a Toc H group in some part of the country which still operates the flashing light scheme, there is a store of equipment here which could be useful to them.

Richard Crump  
Carshalton

## BUSINESSLIKE BLUE

It was with interest that I read your explanation of why blue has become the 'in' colour for Toc H, to be attractive to the outside world. Can you say whether it was also on the advice of public relations/design professionals that the decision was taken to drop the name of our founder Tubby Clayton from letterheads etc emanating from Headquarters? If so, why?

Don Cullen  
Melton Mowbray

No, the decision not to include the founder's name was made by the Publicity Group but not on external professional advice. The letterheads are still provisional in design: final metal printing plates have not yet been made up, since it was always the intention to see what the reaction was from the membership to the new design. We have already had some comments; if you would like to add yours, please write to: Mrs Jean Whiteman, Chairman, Publicity/1990 Group, Toc H Headquarters, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT, as soon as possible.

ED

If the front cover of January's *Point 3* is anything to go by, I must agree with Edwin Mason (*Your Letters*). It certainly does not reflect the quality of the articles inside. I always understood from attending classes in Display many years ago that black and amber were a most effective combination of colours.

George Wakefield  
Sheffield

## Please Note

Letters and items of news for the May 1990 issue of *Point 3* should reach the Editorial Office no later than 23 March.

# book review

## Our Own Future

### SEEDS OF HOPE

Selections from the writings of Henri Nouwen, edited by Robert Durbach.

Darton, Longman & Todd, £7.95

*Seeds of Hope* is a compilation of many of the best loved passages from the numerous writings of Henri Nouwen, who is a Catholic priest and an internationally renowned author, lecturer and spiritual mentor. The extracts come, for the most part, from his lectures and personal journals, and record his struggle to respond to the calling of God. This response has taken him from the ivory towers of American Academia, through the slums of Peru to life as a priest-in-residence, working with mentally handicapped people at the Daybreak *L'Arche* community in Canada.

Nouwen wishes to move away from the commonly held misconception of the spiritual life as one of austere self-denial and an inward journey to the point of insularity. Instead, he portrays it not as a withdrawal from the reality within which we exist, but as the acceptance of that reality and as an informed response to it, as active subjects responsible for our own future. Nouwen strongly attacks the 'individualism', 'competition' and 'ruthlessness' promoted by today's society. Rather, he stresses the inter-personal dimension of human existence, talking of human relationships on a level far deeper than the simple 'being together' of the superficial collectivity fostered by modern existence.

For those who are restricted either financially or by time, *Seeds of Hope* will prove to be an excellent introductory reader to the well-informed and common sense approach of Henri Nouwen to the subject of human spirituality.

Andrew Dawson

■ Andrew Dawson is an ordinand of the United Reform Church, currently studying in Chicago. He is being supported in his training by a grant from the Tubby Clayton Fund.

# rounds

## Beating the Blues

Joan Encill writes about the varied activities of one branch in Birmingham

Suffering from Monday morning 'blues'? King's Norton & Northfield (W) Branch in Birmingham has found the perfect antidote - hold a Toc H meeting! This we have been doing every Monday, Bank Holidays excepted, since our last member to do so retired nearly five years ago.



Willing hands packing Xmas parcels for friendless patients at a local hospital.

With ages ranging from 60 to 86, we number 11 members and are regularly joined by one or more visitors, gathering in turn at our private homes - although the cosiness of this arrangement can sometimes detract from serious matters in hand! By and large, however, we successfully cope with any business issues, including the reports and other matters from Headquarters, organise rotas and fund-raising activities and enjoy visiting speakers. Attendance is invariably high, with good humour and enthusiasm prevailing.

One outstanding event in March last year was the celebration of our 60th birthday. The weather was sharp but bright with sunshine which added to our already uplifted spirits. A splendid service was held at a local Methodist Church at Selly Oak, attended by approximately 60 people, followed by a three-course lunch in the adjoining hall where later speakers included Rose Radford and George Lee, who gave a boost for our future efforts. It was a great success with a warm and happy spirit pervading.

For over 40 years we have been fortunate to have the Rev. Roderic Wilkins as our padre, and through him have been involved over this period in aiding the patients at one of our local psychiatric hospitals. One member represents the branch of the League of Friends committee involved in fund-raising activities, to which we not only give our active

support (running china and bric-a-brac stalls etc.) but also raising money through our branch Bring-and-Buy sales to provide about 80 Christmas parcels for friendless patients each year.

Other donations are regularly made to Lepira, Talbot House, Cuddesdon House and Toc H project ventures, to mention but a few. Projects, involving young people, we recognise as being of great importance to the movement's future, and do what we are able to support their efforts.

A year or two ago, in an emergency, we took over one of the eight weekly teams forming the Talking Newspaper for the Blind in South Birmingham. This proved a challenge, for the entire process of recording local news, preparing, testing and processing cassettes ready for mailing is a complicated one. But, with the aid of a qualified technician to operate the 'clever stuff', several members rose to the occasion and we now enjoy the experience of this worthwhile job.

It is just two years since the friendship circle at Selly Oak came into being, and as the nearest branch we were asked by Robin Dunford (Birmingham District Branch) who was responsible for its inception, to give our support. This we gladly did, on the understanding that some members were not physically able to join in more active roles. Nevertheless each week one



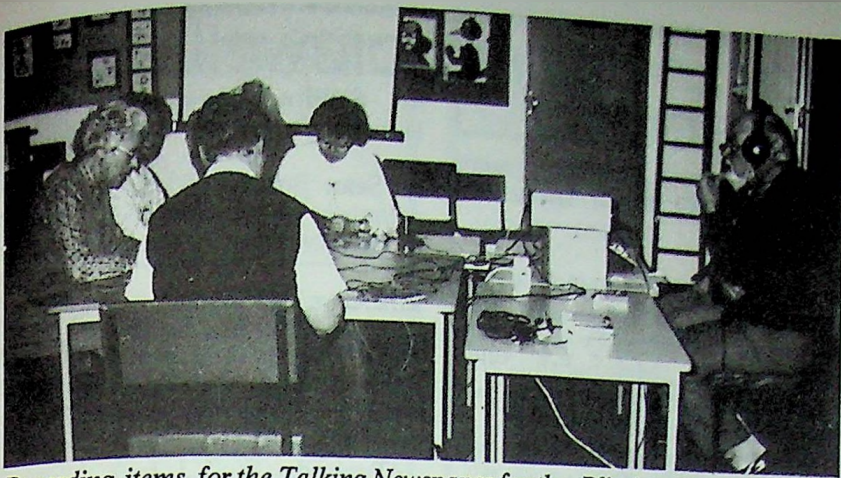
Photo: Lynn Purves/Jim Harrison



Photo: Worthing Gazette & Herald

Florence Welemann (known as Blossom), celebrating 60 years in Toc H last year. Now aged 92, she joined the League of Women Helpers in 1929 and she still believes that helping people and doing one's Toc H job are the things that matter most. ▲

▲ Mrs Joyce Beeken and Mrs Freda Coomes present Ken Prideaux-Brune (International Officer) with a cheque for £4,477 to pay for a Toc H bell, part of the peace carillon in Mesen, Belgium. The money was raised after a national appeal coordinated by Melton & Charnwood District. (See Point 3, May 1988, for more details.)



*Recording items for the Talking Newspaper for the Blind, with a technician at the controls!*

or more members give support and we are greatly encouraged by the success of the venture, the build-up of friendships within the circle between ex-patients and the camaraderie that exists.

Several members are able to support the occasional afternoon meetings held at the Toc H centre in Moseley, thus keeping contact with other branches in the district, and endeavour to support other activities and meetings within the district.

Individually, members are concerned with a variety of jobs, such as: helping at the Wives & Families Centre at Winson Green Prison; visiting a local home for the blind and partially sighted to write letters and ferry residents by car to and from church each Sunday;

running a Day Centre and refurbishing hospital ward flowers.

Of course, we would not be human without a few moans about 'twinges' and 'age creeping on' and we've had our fair share of accidents, illnesses and the like, but these remarks are usually tempered by a suitable witticism for, after all, 'old age', we feel, is but a state of mind and does not begin with a pension book and free travel pass! And a more important phrase has been heard on more than one occasion: 'I don't know what I'd do without Toc H'. This from people who enjoy busy retired lives. Long may the spirit prevail with all we 'old 'uns', wherever we may be, for we in King's Norton & Northfield Branch hope to function actively for some years to come.

## The Hythe Carr-Gomm Home

**Frank Dives** writes about a successful venture in Kent.

Having decided that a Carr-Gomm Home was needed in their part of Kent, Hythe Branch called a public meeting at which a steering committee was formed which was then registered as a Friendly Society with charitable status. The Home was eventually opened in August 1985.

The national Carr-Gomm Society had considerable experience in providing homes for single people who had need of the support of others. The idea is that a 'family' is formed under a 'house parent'.

The Society obtained a government grant for our venture and we were also fortunate in gaining the support of the Samuel Housing Trust, who undertook to take responsibility for the building while

we would take care of the furnishings. A guest house on the sea front, suitable for conversion, was purchased, a housekeeper appointed and eight residents gradually moved in (two or three at a time) over a couple of months. There was a very good mix of ages. Most of the residents are longer stay but a few just remain until they have become more self-reliant.

Throughout the years relationships have been good and the house has been stable. Everyone joins in the household duties and they help each other. The housekeeper oversees all and also helps with dealings with the DHSS, letter writing and so on.

Recently, the Carr-Gomm Committee has been successful in obtaining a grant to establish a second home, this time in Folkestone.

## points

Toc H in Seaford has operated a minibus service for more than 10 years. The bus is used regularly by numerous local groups. Members had been saving up to buy a new vehicle, when they were amazed to receive an anonymous gift of £4000, which means that they can make the purchase immediately. They are just sad that they cannot express their gratitude personally to the donor.

Wolstanton Branch recently held an open evening to publicise the work of LEPR. Martin Gerrard, Midlands Regional Organiser, showed a film which explained progress in the treatment and diagnosis of the disease. Sales from cake, plants and bring & buy stalls brought in £40 which was later sent as a donation to the work of LEPR. The branch has a policy of holding such open nights from time to time. Members offer hospitality to visitors and gain in return encouragement to continue to spread Toc H influence and attract new members.

Lymington, Milford and New Milton Branches have decided to put their energies this year into supporting a new hospice for cancer patients. They have already raised £400 towards their aim of furnishing one of the rooms, which they intend to call the 'Tubby Clayton Room' or 'The Toc H Room'. Work has only just started on the building of Oakhaven Hospice, which will have five bedrooms and a day room for 12 and which will be free to all who use it.

The Tunbridge Wells East Group, a year old in January, now has a membership of 20 (of whom 15 are already full members of Toc H). They are involved in the construction of a new community hall - a house-to-house survey gathered 300 signatures in support of the project and at the same time raised public interest in Toc H. The group now has a regular meeting place in a local church, for the first time, and is full of enthusiasm!

Members of Bangor Brown Bread Action Group were once again involved in numerous enjoyable projects last summer, ranging from a holiday with children with mental handicaps at the Toc H centre Port Penrhyn to a new venture - a tiring conservation week in the foothills of Snowdonia.

# 3date

## congratulations

to **Julian Ranson** and **Judi Edwards** on their engagement.

to **Stan and Eileen Hobby** on their Golden Wedding. Stan is New Forest District Chairman and Eileen is very active in the Milford-on-Sea Branch.

## obituaries

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

### In October

**Brian R Howitt** (Scunthorpe)  
**Gertrude F Crewe** (Salcombe)  
**Hilda Avery** (Burraton)

### In November

**Dennis W Nichols**  
(Broadland District)

### In December

**Geoffrey L Abraham**  
(South Devon District)  
**Arthur H Ashworth** (Graeme)  
**Ronald C Buzzacott**  
(Northants District)  
**W T 'Bill' Crocker** (Barkingside)  
**Eleanor A Crook** (Marches District)  
**Wilfred N Durham** (Avon District)  
**Joan Edmunds** (Andover)  
**Doris 'Fid' Fidler** (Spalding)  
**Tertius W Jack** (Glamorgan District)  
**Jack A Jones** (Thornaby)  
**Victor J Kyle** (Treforest)  
**Margaret G Lawrence** (Honiton)  
**Clare Leverington** (Stockport)  
**William Pindard** (Middlesbrough)  
**Edgar Rogers** (Bangor)  
**Gordon C Rutter** (Stockport)  
**Ernest W Snow** (Graeme)  
**Nellie E C Tomes** (Rhyl North)  
**Bernard Wheatley** (Pinchbeck West)  
**Reginald W White** (Gorleston)  
**Brian T Yonge** (Bexhill on Sea)

### In January

**Lawrence N Barwell** (late Ruislip)  
**Edward W Calver** (Oatlands)  
**Kenneth M Carter** (Newport)  
**Stanley J Noble** (Stamford)  
**Victor R Parker** (Exeter)  
**Arthur F Root** (Cosby)  
**Douglas C Stewart** (Buckingham)  
**Winnie Stokes** (Chirk)  
**Cyril R Warner**  
(Western Approaches & Chiltern Vale District)

## new members

The following members were registered during December/January:

**Miss Monica Bayley** (Belfairs W)  
**Dennis Sharman**  
(Broughton Astley M)  
**Colin J Fowler**, Mrs Judith  
**Hodgson**, Ms Susan Huddleston  
(Central branch)  
**William J Drinkwater** (Corsham M)  
**Mrs Joan Pumfrey** (Greenbank W)  
**Mrs Margaret D Winter**  
(Newport I.O.W. W)  
**Jeanne Hespell**, **Roger Pittellioen**  
(Popering J)

**Arthur George Blick**, who has died at the age of 75, was a veteran of the Burma Campaign of the Second World War. He joined the Nailsea men's Branch in 1982 and his presence and contributions were always greatly appreciated. He will be much missed.

SGD

In 1954 **Cella Powell** joined the staff of the Women's Association as Education (Schools) Secretary and she was with us until about 1960. She and I were joint leaders of the Holiday Weeks at Dinton and we kept our friendship after she left. The news of her death last autumn is very sad.

AW

**Ray Parker**, a professional gardener all his working life, joined Toc H in Exeter in 1937 and remained a staunch member until his death in November 1989. Over the years he held most offices but that of pilot was clearly his metier. He will be most widely remembered for his work during the war, when the branch had its own house. It opened its doors to those in the Services in 1939, providing canteen, sleeping accommodation and a Quiet Room at the top. Ray took overall charge until the war was over. He was a man who could speak his mind without saying an ill word against anyone. We are indeed privileged, who knew him as a friend.

PND

**Dennis Nichols**, who died on Remembrance Sunday last year, was a founder member of Caister men's Branch over 28 years ago. Until ill health forced him to cut down on his activities, he organised the well-attended weekly whist drives. He was also involved in the local flower shows and in the preparation of the Christmas parcels for the housebound and elderly. He will be sadly missed, particularly for his translation of the Norfolk dialect!

JA

**Doris Fidler** was a very active member of Spalding Branch for over 50 years. 'Fid', as she was known, was a very active pianist who entertained people up to her death in December, which was a sad loss to us all.

EV

**R W (Reg) White** was a long-standing member of Gorleston Branch, and was several times chairman. He represented the branch on the local committees of the AVO and CAB and for 10 years devoted his energies to the local talking newspaper for the blind. He was one of the founder members of the Toc H Singing Group. He was greatly respected and the large congregation at the funeral service was indicative of the popularity of this quiet, sincere, loyal gentleman.

CAB

Graeme branch, in Derby, was saddened by the death in December of **Ernest Snow**. He was a member of at least 60 years standing and was also treasurer of the Toc H Disabled Fellowship.

AEP

## farewell

to **Sandra Brownhill** (Alison House), who left in February.

to **Sean Bowler**, 'Time for God' volunteer (Alison House), who left in January.

**Mrs Alice M Williams**  
(Prestatyn & District J)  
**Mrs Elizabeth McLean**,  
**Rev. Joyce Pow**  
(Skelmorlie & Wemyss Bay J)  
**Mrs Valerie M Catt**  
(Tunbridge Wells J Grp)  
**John F Thrift** (Wellingborough M)  
**Miss Rae C Dodkins** (Willenhall J)

## Welcome to 16 new members

Graeme branch lost a second dear friend when **Arthur Ashworth** died in December. When he heard a disabled member ask why Toc H didn't run a club for disabled people, Arthur took up the challenge: in March, the Toc H Disabled Fellowship will have been in existence for 40 years. It will be a reminder of this dear friend and gentleman for as long as it exists.

AEP

It is with great sadness that we report the death of **Margaret Lawrence**, affectionately known to us as Peggy. Her lovely nature and willingness to help anyone ensured her of many friends both inside and outside Toc H. She will be sadly missed by us all.

JM

**Edgar Rogers** was the sole surviving founder of the Bangor Branch and had held every office. He held the love and affection of the branch members by his quiet, sincere way of carrying out his duties with dignity and pride. To all his friends and colleagues his memory will live on.

GC

It is with deep sadness that we record the death of **William T Crocker** in December. Bill joined Seven Kings Branch in 1972 and transferred to Barkingside when it closed. His love for Toc H never waned and although in later years he was prevented from his earlier active involvement by arthritis and the ailments of old age, he continued to retain a keen interest. He showed great fortitude and courage in overcoming his disabilities and his bright and unselfish outlook brought him many friends. He lived and died a gentle man who will be missed and remembered for years to come.

GH

The members of Buckingham Branch heard the tragic news of the sudden passing of their secretary, **Doug Stewart**, on New Year's Day. He had been a keen and loyal member for many years and will be greatly missed.

DCB

**Arthur Root** ('Rooty') was a member of Toc H for nearly 50 years. He ended up in Cosby Branch and was also very well known to members in Melton Mowbray. He was unable to speak but was able to communicate his thought to us in his own way. He was always cheerful and we are very sad at his passing.

ABD

**Ken Carter** died suddenly at home on 26 January aged 76. He had been a member of Newport (Gwent) Branch for over 50 years and has held office on many occasions during that time. He was also a keen supporter of the monthly handicapped club, for which he provided transport for many years. Men of his calibre are a tremendous asset to our movement and he will be sadly missed.

DH

We give thanks for their lives

## Cuddesdon House

How did the Garden Grow?

Monday 20 - Friday 24 August.

An opportunity to explore gardens in Oxfordshire in the company of an expert. The cost - £90 - includes daily visits to gardens of interest; local travel; entry fees and full board at Cuddesdon House. Single & twin-bedded rooms.

A deposit of £20 per person secures the booking (cheques payable to Toc H).

Enquiries to:

Miss Daphne Dawes,  
338 Bath Road, Keynsham,  
Bristol, BS18 1TQ  
Tel: 0225 873022

## Walking in Oxfordshire

Saturday 25 August  
- Thursday 30 August

By popular request - another 'Walking Week'. Leisurely walks exploring riverside and gentle hill country, attractive villages and splendid pubs! Daily charge £20 inclusive of accommodation, all meals, transport and corn plasters!

A deposit of £10 secures a place (cheques payable to Toc H).

Enquiries to: John Edwards,  
23 Stonehouse Lane,  
Combe Down, Bath, BA2 5DW  
Tel: 0225 833093

## small ads

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) five weeks before publication day, which is the 23rd of the preceding month. The charge is 5p a word (minimum 50p) plus VAT, to *Point 3* Magazine. Rates of display advertisements can be obtained from the Editorial Office, Toc H, 38 Newark Street, London E1 2AA. Tel: 01 375 0547

Falmouth Toc H Holiday House. Accommodation for five, plus cot. Open all year. £60 per week. Tel Falmouth (0326) 312689

Hythe, Kent - homely accommodation in member's home. Bed/breakfast and/or evening meal or full board, very reasonable rates. Enquire Nesta Cock, 7 Tournay Close, Lympne, Hythe, Kent CT21 4LL. Tel: 0303 269407.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc. gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD3 8BT.

## UNCOVERING TOC H

Friday 27 - Sunday 29 April  
National Training Weekend  
for new members  
led by  
John Burgess and Bill Bains.

Applications and further details from:

John Burgess, 66 Park Meadow,  
Hatfield, Herts AL9 5HB.  
Tel: 07072 64949

## Trip to Poperinge

20-24 April  
1990

If you have never been to Poperinge or seen the Old House, this is your opportunity! We have booked a minibus and accommodation for the weekend after Easter, which is still within the school holidays. There will be interest for all age groups and day trips can be tailored to suit you.

Approximate cost: £97, which includes travel, meals and insurance.

Please contact either of the leaders if you are interested:

Chris Stoneham,  
Tel: 01 500 7704

Laurie Tuckey,  
Tel: Eye (Suffolk) 870412

## Scared of Missing the Next Issue of Point 3?

Don't rely on other people to show you their copy; make sure you get one by taking out a personal subscription. For just £3.60 a year\* you could have *Point 3* delivered to you every month. Here are just some of the things you'll be reading about in the coming months:

Our series of special issues on the world's great religions will continue with a look at Hinduism and at Buddhism. We shall be examining some of the issues facing us in Britain today, such as the threat of AIDS and the approach to mental health. Our 'Starting Point' series will continue with articles on Talbot House and Tubby Clayton - and *Point 3* itself! We'll be examining the different Christian denominations. And we'll be continuing our special 75th Anniversary series, 'To Know One Another'. All this plus our regular book reviews and, of course, news and views from within the movement.

Take out your subscription to *Point 3* now by sending this form to:

Toc H Despatch Department, Toc H HQ, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks, HP22 6BT.

Please send me *Point 3* each month for one year. I enclose cheque/postal order for £3.60 (payable to Toc H).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\*Any contribution towards the cost of postage will be gratefully received.



# Merchandising

**You will know that this year we are celebrating our 75th birthday and the following merchandise is available through our Publications Department.**

## **Sweatshirts:**

These have our 1990 logo on the breast pocket in sizes medium, large and extra large, in colours heather grey, denim, jade and royal blue, all sizes @ £6.00 each. Also now in XXL, colour heather grey and royal blue @ £7.00 each.

## **Teeshirts:**

These have our large 1990 logo on the front in sizes medium, large and extra large, in colours white, turquoise, light blue and gold, all sizes @ £3.00 each.

## **Pens:**

Retractable ballpoint pens with '75 years of Toc H' printed in gold on black pens, blue ink @ 30p each.

## **Bookmarks:**

Bonded leather bookmarks, in various colours with 1990 logo in gold @ 50p each.

## **Decorative Pottery Mugs:**

These are available in two different colours - blue and brown - at a cost of £2.50 each. As these mugs are fragile and awkward to post, please let us know if there is an alternative way of our getting them to you other than through the post, ie via staff or 1990 regional functions.

## **Membership Wallets:**

Plastic wallets in maroon with gold Toc H and logo printed on, ideal for keeping your Toc H membership card in @ 20p each.

## **Hand Towels:**

These are available in Indian white cotton, with our new Toc H logo in royal blue printed on, size approx 24" x 36" @ £2.50 each.

## **Tea Towels:**

Toc H tea towel, with Talbot House, Poperinge, design, printed royal blue on white 100% cotton. Price £2.25 each.

## **1990 Diaries - HALF PRICE**

We still have a few diaries left, slimline design, in blue with Sunday start. The printed information about Toc H has been revised and the diary contains information regionally, nationally and internationally. Cost - now only 50p each.

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All the above items are available from **Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 6BT**. Please enclose a cheque with your order, made payable to **Toc H**. All prices quoted are inclusive of postage.